

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CU-02 HEW-04 AID-05 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 W

-----011059Z 020159 /15

R 010938Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5615

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FOR OES, CU

PASS HEW, AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: USEGJC

SUBJ: CHANGES IN GOE ORGANIZATION FOR JOINT WORKING GROUPS (JWG)

1. SUMMARY: SCIATT AND USAID DIRECTOR BROWN MET WITH DR. HASSAN ISMAIL, CO-CHAIRMAN, JOINT WORKING GROUPS FOR TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (JWGTRD) AND FOR CULTURE AND EDUCATION (JWGCE) ON MAY 28. REORGANIZATION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE JWGS, LINKING THEM TO PERSON OF MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR. IBRAHIM BADRAN, WHO WOULD REMAIN CHAIRMAN OF JWG FOR MEDICAL COOPERATION (JWGMC), WAS DISCUSSED. MTG. HEDL AT BADRAN'S REQUEST. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. ISMAIL SAID THAT UNDER NEW ARRANGEMENT BADRAN WOULD BECOME RESPONSIBLE, IN PERSONAL CAPACITY, FOR JWGTRD AND JWGCE AND AS MINISTER OF HEALTH REMAIN CO-CHAIRMAN OF JWGMC. OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRST TWO JWG'S WOULD BE DELEGATED TO DR. ISMAIL WHO IS CURRENT CO-CHAIRMAN OF BOTH. MOH UNDERSECRETARY RAMSIS GOMAA WOULD REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION OF JWGMC. BADRAN WILL PROVIDE TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE FOR ISMAIL IN MOH AND LATER IN OTHER SPACE RETAINED BY MOH. APPARENTLY SPACE IS TO BE TAKEN AWAY FROM A CURRENT MOH

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FOREIGN LESSEE. BADRAN INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT THIS ARRANGEMENT IMMEDIATELY.

3. DR. ISMAIL WAS ASKED ABOUT FATE OF JWG'S IF BADRAN IS NO LONGER MINISTER. HIS HOPE IS THAT BADRAN WOULD REMAIN RESPONSIBLE FOR JWGTRD & JWGCE; JWGMC WOULD GO TO NEXT MINISTER OF HEALTH. HE NOTED THAT LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE

WOULD BE FINAL IN GOE LAW AND NOTDEPENDENT ON WISHES OF
A SUCCEEDING MINISTER. DR. ISMAIL, WHO IS RETIRED AND IN
PRIVATE BUSINESS, MADE NO SECRET OF HIS OWN DESIRE TO
SHED JWG RESPONSIBILITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SAID, THAT
HE WOULD HOWEVER REMAIN AND ASSIST AS LONG AS BADRAN WISHED.
ISMAIL ADDED THAT DR. HAMID KAMAL EL DIN, NEWLY APPOINTED
ECONOMIC AND S&T ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ASKED
HIM FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT JWGS. HE REFERRED HIM TO BADRAN
BECAUSE "WHOEVER MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS GETS THE JOB OF
CARRYING THEM OUT" - (FYI: DR. KAMAL EL DIN WAS UNTIL RECENTLY
A PROFESSOR AT OKLAHOMA STATE UNIV.)

4. DR. ISMAIL ALSO ASKED USAID FOR SUPPORT FOR SECRETARIAL
STAFFING IN THE JWG OFFICE TO BE ESTABLISHED. HE SAID HE FELT
THAT IN PRINCIPLE OFFICE STAFFING HERE SHOULD BE A GOE
RESPONSIBILITY; HOWEVER IF HE WAS TO DO ANYTHING HE NEEDED
SOMEONE AT ONCE TO TYPE, ANSWER THE PHONE AND KEEP FILES.
HE WAS TOLD THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF BADRAN COULD FORMAILIZE
THE NEW ARRANGEMENT, E.G. BY GETTING THE PRIME MINISTER TO
CONCUR AND TO DESIGNATE HIM AS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR JWGTRD AND
JWGCE AND TO ALLOCATE RESOURCES. IF THIS CAN BE DONE USAID
MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP OUR ON A TEMPORARY BASIS. RE EARLIER
MOH REQUEST TO HEW TO SUPPORT POSITION FOR JWGMC, IT IS NOT
CLEAR WHETHER OR NOT BADRAN HAS IN MIND JOINT STAFF FOR ALL
JWG'S.

5. COMMENT: WE VIEW REPORTED CHANGES AS AN EGYPTIAN RESPONSIBILITY
AND WILL WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS. WE HAVE ALREADY
EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN AT LINKING JWGCE AND JWGTRD
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BUREAUCRATICALLY TO MOH. IF BARADAN GETS HIMSELF FORMALLY
DESIGNATED AS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL JWG'S AND MORE IMPORTANTLY,
GETS SOME RESOURCES FROM GOE, HE SHOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE FOCAL
POINT. OTHERWISE HIS ONLY LONG TERMS ADVANTAGE, IN NON-HEALTH
AREAS, OVER HASSAN ISMAIL IS ENERGY.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION, COMMITTEES, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO09078
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770194-0957
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706104/aaaadmxxm.tel
Line Count: 103
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 61049e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2006306
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHANGES IN GOE ORGANIZATION FOR JOINT WORKING GROUPS (JWG)
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, USEGJC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/61049e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009